PO Box 18
Berowra Heights
NSW 2082
02 9456 4007
gws@pacific.net.au
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To: L.M. Anderson
I.J. Carmichael-Bear
A.L.Eccelston
A.A. Evans
C.F. Fargher
J.W.Firth
A.R. Horton
I. Lawson
D.C.McLaren
L.Powell
R.G.Ray
W.W. Vallack
I.K.Wilson

CC: R.E.Geale

Gentlemen,

This is a request of you to dig into the dim dark recesses of your respective memories to capture some information which I am seeking. By way of background, I was A.L.O. 805 Squadron 1959, and your names have been given to me by Ray Morritt.

You may have read the 22 page article “The Advent of Radar in the Royal Australian Navy” published in the September 2006 issue of the journal of the Naval Historical Society of Australia (NHSA), with my name as author. This article has prompted the newly appointed editor of this journal, Dr Ian Pfennigwerth ex Captain R.A.N., to ask me to prepare a draft article for future publication in the journal on the history of R.A.N. airborne radar.

I want this article to deal with both technical and operational aspects. As a techo and with Bob Geale’s co-operation, I can handle the former, but I need help with the latter. As ex Observers, it has occurred to me that you may be willing and able to provide me with relevant information. Such could be personal anecdotes, copies of reports, your logs, manuals, C.N.Os, letters, previously published information and so on.

Purely as an arbitary date I am regarding anything prior to 1982 (25 years ago) as historical. This would include AN/APS-4 in Fireflies 5 & 6, AI 17 in Sea Venoms, Mk 19B in Gannets, as well as later aircraft such as the Tracker and early choppers.

Although the prime focus of the proposed article will be airborne radar, if you have information about ancilliary devices such as IFF, Radio Altimeter, Sonobuoy and maybe RCM, this could be useful.

So there it is. I hope you can help because the NHSA journal is highly regaded in literary circles, and published articles must have reader appeal as well as being informative.

Sincerely,

George Stevens
VP RAN Radio Mechanics Association